



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 24, 2016

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5305, "An Act Concerning School Paraprofessional Training"

CCM **opposes** this bill.

This bill, would among other things, mandate additional training for school paraprofessionals. Furthermore, that the training be paid and made specific to certain student populations.

While appreciating the intent of this proposal, CCM has concerns regarding the fiscal and administrative cost associated with providing such training. Additionally, the bill as currently drafted does not specify who would develop the materials to be used for purposes of administering the training outlined in the bill. This could result in wide variation of training materials and standards for the same or similar student populations.

It is also unclear as to whether or not there is a uniform standard to be set for this new training. This would be particularly problematic and costly if a paraprofessional works part time in different school districts and they are required to complete multiple trainings.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action** on HB 5305 until a detailed fiscal note is acquired regarding the cost and administrative impact of the bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at dgiungi@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3023.